



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT**

**To:** Jensen Uchida, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** October 5, 2005  
**Subject:** Weekly Report #24: September 25, 2005 – October 1, 2005  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Heather Stiles

Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM) Heather Stiles toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on September 28. The weather was clear and warm. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Shannon Ceresola, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. She is conducting environmental trainings for all new crew members. The PG&E EI also serves as a project biologist conducting California tiger salamander (CTS) aestivation surveys, on-going bird surveys, as well as installation of resource flagging and managing the installation and maintenance of sediment controls.

### **OVERHEAD:**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

All overhead construction including pole, foundation, and line stringing work is being done by PG&E. The only remaining pole areas where work has yet to occur are Transition Poles #9 and #10. Work at the transition poles is planned to occur concurrent with the underground construction activities. The foundation work for all of the remaining poles is complete. All of the poles have been placed on the foundations except Poles #1, #2 and #3. These poles will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized (likely several months from now.) The PG&E crew has completed all current work and has left the site. The PG&E EI inspected existing erosion controls including those near vernal pool areas. Per the PG&E EI, all inspected erosion control remains in functional condition and do not require maintenance.

#### **Environmental Compliance Activities:**

Previously, the PG&E EI evaluated the construction areas at all project pole sites for potential burrows for California tiger salamander in compliance with Mitigation Measure APM 7-11. No burrows were located in the work areas.

The CPUC EM observed that the current overhead construction activities to be complete and were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. Erosion controls were in place around the construction areas.

### **UNDERGROUND:**

#### **Summary of Activity:**

The underground work, including trenching and conduit installation, has been contracted to Wilson Construction. Wilson has subcontracted work to Zayas Construction. The horizontal bore work will be subcontracted as well. Crews continued trenching, conduit installation, and backfilling during the subject week. Trenching occurred from Stations 16+00 to 8+00 and conduit was laid from Stations 18+00 to 8+00. Native spoil (as approved by Kleinfelder after soil testing) was used to backfill from Stations 20+00 to 15+50 (see Figure 1).

The Zayas crew began excavation through Drainage #30 on Friday, September 30. The proper dam and pump preparations were installed and adequately maintained throughout the subject week. All water from the drainage was successfully pumped out and contained behind the sandbag dams. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement conditions require that trenching through the site crossings be completed by October 15. A fuel tank and power cell generator are in secondary containment surrounded by chainlink fence near the Drainage #30 area. On the morning of Friday, September 30, an amphibian that resembled a newt or salamander was observed in the drainage (outside of the work area). A CTS specialist was asked to assess the drainage and vicinity for presence or potential habitat on Saturday, October 1.

On Friday, September 30 the PG&E EI contacted the CPUC EM Anne Sweet regarding a haul truck being used for the Drainage #30 work. Travel along the narrow access road to the crossing is very tight and given the equipment and spoils placement, PG&E had requested to leave the truck in place overnight even though it was parked within 100 feet of the resource area. It was proposed that secondary containment would be erected around the truck to prohibit any potential leaks. The CPUC EM agreed that with the increased protection and monitoring, leaving the truck overnight should not pose any increase of project impacts. The CPUC EM stated that for all future work the 100ft buffer should be maintained as per project requirements, otherwise a variance request should be submitted.

All open trench is covered with chainlink fence and topped with construction fencing at the end of the work day. Each morning crews walk the trench to check for trapped wildlife.

According to PG&E construction specifications for the project, topsoil segregation and replacement is required. Top soils are being separated and stored adjacent to the trench line. Sub soils from the trench line and vault excavation are being stored at the staging area next to the Kinder Morgan Tank Farm. Samples were taken from the Vault #2 spoils pile for contaminant testing. Results showed higher than acceptable levels for diesel and the spoils were taken to the appropriate disposal facility. Results from contamination tests of the spoils excavated from the area north of Farron Street showed that the spoil from this area is acceptable for use as native backfill.

Moving ahead of the trench line, Zayas crews continued to remove weeds in compliance with PG&E's weed mitigation plan. Weed debris is being collected and disposed of off site.

Far Western has been conducting the project cultural monitoring. The underground work will encounter several culturally sensitive areas. A cultural monitor must be present for work in all culturally sensitive areas as specified in Mitigation Measure C-1 and the Cultural Resources Treatment Plan. No underground work occurred within or adjacent to culturally sensitive areas during the subject week.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY**

All new equipment has been inspected for leaks as they are brought onto the site.

Sediment controls and exclusion signs and fencing were installed and/or maintained around sensitive resource areas.

The CPUC EM observed that the underground construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements.

Mr. Zayas provided a notice of intent to refuel in Drainage #30 and was given a response notification by the PG&E EI, Shannon Ceresola .

As presented in Table 1, one NCR has been issued for the project to date.

**TABLE 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS**  
 (Updated 10-5-05)

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
NCR (Level 2)	6-23-05	PG&E contractors removed 22 large trees without notifying the project EI and without conducting avian nest surveys prior to removal, which is a violation of Mitigation Measure B-3 and APM 7-6. Additionally, the trees were removed outside of the allowable window of November 1 through February 15 as established in Mitigation Measure B-3 and overland travel was used instead of existing access roads.	PG&E has conducted post removal surveys at the tree removal sites and surrounding area, and supplied the CPUC with results on July 17, 2005. PG&E also notified CDFG.

**NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):**

Table 2 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Atlantic–Del Mar Project to date. No additional NTPs are anticipated.

**TABLE 2**  
**NOTICES TO PROCEED**  
 (Updated 10-5-05)

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
1	11-03-03	Mobilization within the Atlantic and Del Mar Substations, and overhead installation from the Del Mar Substation to the railroad right-of-way (northern 0.25 miles), City of Rocklin.
2	3-08-05	Construction of the remaining overhead portion (approximately 4 miles) and the underground portion (approximately 1.3 miles) of the Atlantic–Del Mar Reinforcement Project, within the Cities of Roseville and Rocklin in Placer County.

**VARIANCE REQUESTS:**

No new variance requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 3 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

**TABLE 3**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS**  
 (Updated 10-5-05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	4-19-05	Modify the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measure 7.2 at Wetlands #2 and #30 to allow the use of non-rubber tired vehicles and to allow discretionary re-fueling on the project right-of-way.	Approved	5-2-05
2	5-19-05	Allow overland travel from an existing access road to the Pole 3/19 site.	Approved	5-25-05
3	6-28-05	Allow specific tree removals outside of the allowable window of November 1 to February 15 as outlined in Mitigation Measure B-3.	Approved	7-7-05
4	6-28-05	Allow movement of track and rubber tired equipment through approximately 15 feet by 100 feet of Cultural Resource site Y2.	Approved	7-7-05
5	9-2-05	Remove either a berm or oak tree to open up space needed for boring operations south of Sunset Ave. Use of an existing disturbed staging area. String and pull conduit through a delineated wetland area.	Approved	9-8-05

**UPCOMING ITEMS:**

The horizontal bore is scheduled to begin in mid-October.

Next week, trenching and conduit installation will continue through Drainage #30. The section from Stations 8+00 to 15+50 will be backfilled.

**AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:**

None.

## Photographs



**Figure 1** – Backfilled trench line north of Farron Street, September 30, 2005.